Amendments to the Specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) kindly amend the specification as follows. Amendments to the specification are made by presenting replacement paragraphs or sections marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended paragraph or section are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

On page 1, please amend the title as follows:

MISSING LINK/PART DETECTOR EMPLOYING ~~BAR CODE READER~~ SCANNING ENGINE

On page 1, line 7

The invention pertains to the field of inspection of manufactured items. More particularly, the invention pertains to a method and apparatus for detection of missing, mislocated or defective chain links or other parts, using a ~~bar code reader~~ scanning engine.

On page 3, line 2

Bar code technology is currently very widely used for its ability to read black and white labels. Every supermarket and many, if not most, stores use bar codes on products to eliminate manual entry of prices and track inventory. Package delivery services such as UPS and Federal Express use optical bar code readers each including a scanning engine to track packages, and so on. Bar code reader scanning engines are now used for component identification in many industries.

On page 15, line 16, add the following paragraph:

It is commonly known that scanning systems typically have different subsystems, such as the scanning engine, the optical sensor, and the decoder. Some of the subsystems, such as the decoder may be incorporated into a microcontroller. The interfaces between these different subsystems must support the required processing power and allow one to improve one part of a scanning system without redesigning other systems. A bar code reader is the equivalent of a scanning engine or at least includes the scanning engine. The

present invention teaches the use of just a subsystem of a scanning system, i.e. a scanning engine, for detection of missing, misallocated or defective chain links, or other parts. Because the line images derived from the chain links or other parts do not have identical characteristics of a conventional bar code which has to meet certain industry standards, such as ISO/ANSI standards, the line images derived from the chain link or other parts is not identical as that of the bar codes. Furthermore, the interfaces between these different subsystems must support the required processing power and allow one to improve one part of a scanning system. In other words, the present invention uses merely part of a Scanning system, not for scanning a bar code, but for detection of missing, misallocated, or defective chain links or other parts.